

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the election of species requirement in the Office Action dated December 19, 2005, for which one month was allotted for reply. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Election/Restriction

In the initial action, the examiner identified three species for election, i.e. Species I, Figs. 1 to 11; Species II, Figs. 12 and 13; and Species III, Figs. 14 and 15. In response, the Applicant respectfully elects Species I, Figs. 1 to 11 on which claims 1 to 14, 17 to 24, 26 and 27 are believed to read. At least claims 1 and 17 are generic to Species I and III, while claim 28 reads on Species II. Early examination of the elected species claims drawn at least to Figs. 1 to 11 is respectfully requested. It should be noted that other claims elected may also read on the elected species I and III.

The Applicant reserves its right to amend allowed elected claims to include language reading on the non-elected species, if appropriate.

Conclusion

Early examination of at least the claims that read on the elected Species I is respectfully requested, and a determination of whether any allowed claims is generic to at least Species III stated.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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